



**ST MARY THE VIRGIN  
SAFFRON WALDEN**

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

**6.30PM**

**Welcome**

Revd Alex Jeewan

**Choir Creator of the Stars of night**

Creator of the stars of night,  
thy people's everlasting light,  
Jesu, Redeemer, save us all,  
and hear thy servants when they call.

Thou cam'st, the bridegroom of the bride,  
as drew the world to evening-tide,  
proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
the spotless victim all divine.

At whose dread name, majestic now,  
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,  
and things celestial thee shall own,  
and things terrestrial, Lord alone.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
laud, honour, might and glory be -  
from age to age eternally.  
Amen.

**Introductory Sentence**

Now is the time to wake out of sleep: for now our salvation is nearer  
than when we first believed. Romans 13: 11

**Bidding Prayer**

**Hymn Come, Thou Redeemer**

**Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
and manifest thy virgin birth.  
Let ev'ry age adoring fall;  
such birth befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will  
but of the spirit, thou art still  
the Word of God in flesh arrayed,  
the promised fruit to man displayed.**

**The virgin womb that burden gained,  
with virgin honour all unstained;  
the banners there of virtue glow;  
God in his temple dwells below.**

**All laud, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

**Lesson 1:** Zechariah 9: 9-10 read by Fr David Clemens of our Lady of Compassion  
The prophet, Zechariah, foretells of the coming to Jerusalem of a King of peace.

**Choir Adam lay y-bounden Ord**

Adam lay y-bounden, bounden in a bond.  
Four thousand winters thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady a-been heavené queen.  
Blessed be the time that apple taken was.  
Therefore we moun singen "Deo gracias".

**Lesson 2:** Jeremiah 23: 5-6 read by John Luke of the United Reformed Church  
The prophet, Jeremiah, announces God's promise of a future King who will be righteous, and reign wisely.

**Hymn Long ago, prophets knew**

**Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new,  
bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

**God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
God will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! ....*

**Mary hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! ....*

**Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! ....*

**Lesson 3:** Psalm 24 read by John Capper of the Friends  
Through this psalm, the pilgrims in Jerusalem welcome God's King who is strong and mighty.

## Choir **Lift up your Heads** Messiah - Handel

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.

Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts,  
He is the King of Glory.

Psalm 24 v7-10

**Lesson 4:** Isaiah 9: 2,6-7 read by Revd John Goddard of the Baptist Church  
The prophet, Isaiah, announces the birth of a godly King who will establish God's kingdom of peace and justice.

## Choir **A great and mighty wonder** Praetorius

A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure!  
The virgin bears the infant  
With virgin honour pure.

*Repeat the hymn again!*  
*"To God on high be glory,*  
*And peace on earth to men!"*

The word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high!  
And cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky.

While thus they sing your monarch,  
Those bright angelic hands,  
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,  
Ye oceans clap your hands.

Since all he comes to ransom  
By all be he adored,  
The Infant born in Beth'lem,  
The Saviour and the Lord.

And idol forms shall perish,  
And error shall decay,  
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,  
Our Lord and God for ay.

**Lesson 5:** Isaiah 7: 10-15 read by Jonathan Burton of the Saffron Walden Community Church  
Isaiah prophesies the birth of son to a virgin, and he will be called, Immanuel which means 'God with us.'

## Hymn **O come, O come Emmanuel**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel  
redeem thy captive Israel,  
that into exile drear is gone  
far from the face of God's dear Son.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw  
the quarry from the lion's claw;  
from the dread caverns of the grave,  
from nether hell, thy people save.**

*High voices* **O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!  
pour on our souls thy healing light;  
dispel the long night's lingering gloom,  
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.**

*Low voices* **O come, thou Lord of David's Key!  
the royal door fling wide and free;  
safeguard for us the heav'nward road,  
and bar the way to death's abode.**

**O come, O come, Adonai,  
who in thy glorious majesty  
from that high mountain clothed with awe  
gavest thy folk the elder law  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
shall come to thee, O Israel***

**Lesson 6:** Romans 12:1,2: 13:11-14 read by  
Captain Katrina Thurlow of the Salvation Army  
Paul encourages us to get ready for the coming of  
God's kingdom.

**Choir We wait for thy loving kindness McKie**

We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God: in the midst of thy  
temple.

Alleluia. O God, according to thy Name, so is thy praise unto  
the world's end: thy right hand is full of righteousness.  
Alleluia.

O Lord, send us now prosperity. Amen.

Psalms 48:8, 9; 118:25

**Lesson 7:** Matthew 1:18-25 read by Denis Tindley, Churchwarden,  
St Mary's, Saffron Walden  
An Angel tells Joseph of the coming birth of a son to  
Mary, who will be called Jesus, for he will save his  
people from their sins.

**Choir O thou the central Orb Wood**

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,  
pure beam of the most High,  
eternal Light of this our wintry world,  
where thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith,  
hope soars above.

Priest: Let us pray.

## **Vesper Responsory**

Priest: Now it is time to awake out of sleep.

**People: For the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

Priest: Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed.

**People: For the night is far spent.**

Priest: Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light.

**People: For the day is at hand.**

Priest: Put on the Lord Jesus Christ  
and make no provision for the flesh.

**People: For the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

*All shall keep silence for a while*

## **Advent Collect**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and  
to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility: so that  
on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn Lo! He comes with clouds descending**

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain:  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold Him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing  
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Yea, amen! - let all adore thee  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take thy power and glory;  
claim the kingdom for thine own.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign and thou alone.**

## **Blessing**

**Organ Obangiji ('Almighty God') – Sowande**